

stay on. I told Tex I had planned on going home and probably going back in the Navy. "Well, the Old Man asked me to check with you," Tex said. I said to Tex, "I suppose you're staying." He said, "Yeah," and I said, "Count me in." So one day, we're AVG, and the next day I'm a 24-year-old major in the 23rd Fighter Group and given command of the 76th Fighter Squadron. Tex was given command of the 75th. Both of us were out at the forward bases. Another AVG pilot, Frank Schiel, was given command of the 74th, responsible for air defense of the Kunming area. That was how we transitioned from the AVG to the 23rd Fighter Group.

MH: Chennault was concerned that once the AVG was disbanded, the Japanese fighters would quickly eliminate the inexperienced replacement pilots. You were there on July 4. What happened that day?

Rector: I had moved down to Kwelin. My new squadron was just a ragtag outfit, 14 pilots. I had one AVG pilot, Charles W Sawyer, as my deputy. The rest were new, inexperienced pilots, just in from the States. I had them up until 11:30 on the night of July 3, briefing them on the principles of Chennault's tactics and how we were going to fight the Japanese. I told them that in all likelihood they would be in a dogfight the next day, and they were.

MH: What happened?

Rector: The Japanese came to attack the airfield at Kwelin. According to my old combat report, about a dozen Nates were diving on Bob Neale's flight west of the field when we dove on them from 13,000 feet. I got one in a diving turn, and he burst into flame and went into a cloud, with bits of debris falling from his plane. I climbed and made several more passes, and though one Nate forced me to dive, in doing so I got in a head-on burst at two others and saw the engine of one let out a burst of smoke as I passed over them. I was credited with one, James H. Howard got another that lost a part of its wing and then spun into the ground, Sawyer got a third and one of our new pilots, Van Shapard, got a fourth.

MH: So you were both the first and the last AVG pilot to score a victory?

Rector: I was not the last, exactly. Pete Wright, one of the last of us to stay with the 23rd Group, downed his second Japanese plane during that last two to three weeks.

MH: Did you have any difficulty adjusting to a different military regime?

Rector: My big worry was administration. Major John Alison had just come over to China from the Lend-Lease mission to Russia. I took him aside that night and told him I was worried sick. My background was Navy, and I didn't know anything about Army regulations. Johnny said: "Don't ever worry about Army administration. In Kunming you have a headquarters for the 23rd and its three squadrons. They had adjutants, and you have first sergeants. They know what to do and they will take care of it." He was right. I never had any difficulty.

mipotope = convertope

what is GEYSEN's replaceability template
J. Mol. Recog. 1988 1:32-41

p 7, lns 9 & 10: do you mean "rate" or "concentration"

the symbols for posit. sera in the test (!) does
not match the figure (E)